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REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-23 were pending in the present application. Claims 18-22 were withdrawn by the Examiner due to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-5, 7-17, 14-16 and 23 are rejected. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16 and 23 are currently pending in the present application.

The amendment to claims 1 and 8 is fully supported by the application as originally filed, specifically on page 20, lines 24-29, page 21, lines 4-14, page 21, lines 31-33 and page 22, lines 4-6, where subsets of the variables R^c , R^d , R^e and R^f are recited. It is noted that these amendments delete the portions of the variables where rings are formed by two variables in combination. This appears to be the primary concern of the Examiner on rejecting the application. See e.g., page 3, second paragraph of the Official Action.

By modifying the definitions as the Applicants have done, the remaining allegations supporting the Examiner's position are rendered moot.

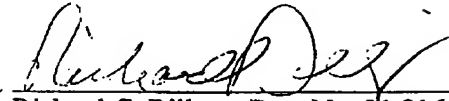
Based upon the foregoing, entry of this Amendment is appropriate. It directly addresses the Examiner's concerns expressed on page 3 of the Official Action, and renders moot the issues on page 2 thereof. Moreover, it renders the claims in better form for appeal should this become appropriate by reducing the issues to be considered by the Board. Lastly, it does not raise any new issues that would require further consideration or search on the part of the Examiner. In fact, Applicants believe that it places the application in consideration for allowance.

Such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the captioned patent application, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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